



Town of
Westford
Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

April 2016



Jodi Ross,
Town
Manager

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www.westfordma.gov/tm
978-692-5500

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Watch
Meetings Online
westford CAT
community access television
www.westfordcat.org

Dear Westford residents,

Thank you to all of you who attended our fascinating town meeting. The results of the meeting are available at the following link: [Annual Town Meeting Results](#).

Our 6th Annual Strategic Planning Retreat will be held at Kimball Farm on June 16th from 5:30pm – 8:30pm. The topics to be discussed will be determined by the Board of Selectmen at their April 26th meeting. This is a great event to mingle with other residents and town staff, and learn about the important projects the town is facing. This is a retreat which focuses on interacting with each other informally, not formal presentations.

The Agricultural Commission has expanded our Westford Community Gardens. They have expanded the garden to the maximum number of plots that will fit on the site (104 garden plots, each 15 x 15 ft). Thirty-six gardeners have opted for double plots, twenty-eight for single plots, totaling sixty-four garden families this year! Incredible! Compost, lime, and winter rye have been tilled into the soil for the preparation of the 2016 growing season. Another water tank will be installed, more compost will be made, an expanded food donations program will be organized and more learning/educational opportunities will be offered for all gardeners. Also, our elementary school students will be planting raised-bed vegetable gardens at each of their schools thanks to the folks at Fresh Start Food Gardens and Circle Health.

Our Permanent Town Building Committee issued a Request for Qualifications for the completion of the Center Fire Station design. Eight proposals were received and they are currently being reviewed with a contract award scheduled for the May 10th Board of Selectmen meeting.

At their March 22nd meeting, the Board of Selectmen voted to form a new Healthy Community Committee, which included 17 volunteers. The group will be holding their first meeting on May 26th at 7:00p.m. in the town hall to develop a charge to bring back to the board.

The Westford Kiwanis 2016 Annual Apple Blossom Festival will begin on May 11, 2016 and run through May 15, 2016. The parade will be held on Saturday, May 14th at 10:00AM starting at Main St at Graniteville Rd and traveling to the Abbot School. The Selectmen and I plan to walk in the parade, and attend and participate in the numerous festival events, including raffles, pancake breakfast, fireworks display, person of the year award, Apple Blossom Queen contest, and many more. I hope to see you there. Please visit the Westford Kiwanis website for the full schedule of events: [Apple Blossom Festival](#).

(Continued on next page)

WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV

Please consider attending our town's annual Memorial Day Celebration on Sunday, May 29th. Terry Stader, Westford's Veteran's Service Agent, has organized a substantial array of events, including the parade through Westford Center. The parade departs at noon from the Roudenbush Community Center and travels to the town Common. A full events guide and parade route is available at the following link: [Memorial Day 2016](#).

A special thank you to John Mangiaratti, who accepted the Deputy Town Manager position with the town of Andover, and is leaving our town's employment after 11 years. John served as Assistant Town Manager for the past six years and his accomplishments have been numerous. We wish him the very best in his new position – but he is leaving very big shoes for us to fill.

There are several openings on other local boards and committees, including the Agricultural Commission, Bylaw Review Committee, Communications Advisory Committee, Economic Development Committee, Energy Committee, the Historical Commission, Tax Possession Sale Committee, and others, and I urge you to peruse our website for information about the work of these committees. If you have interest, please complete a Citizen's Activity form at this link: [Citizen Activity Form](#) or stop by and fill out a form in the Town Manager's office.

Would you like more detailed information on Board of Selectmen meetings? Click the following links to access: [Board of Selectmen Documents](#) & [Board of Selectmen Meeting Videos](#).

See you at the Apple Blossom parade!

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross
Town Manager



*Westford Firefighters recently conducting a disaster drill at
Westford Nursing and Rehab.*



Town wide observance of Memorial Day will be held on **Sunday, May 29th**. Ceremonies will be conducted at Freedom Park @ 9 AM, Forge Village monument @ 9:15 AM,

Graniteville monument on North Main St @ 9:45 and then at Nab Lake, Byrne Ave. dam at 10:30. On the Town Common, the reading of the Honor Rolls (volunteer readers needed!) will begin at 10:45 AM.

Culminating the village ceremonies will be a parade starting at noon from the Roudenbush Community Center to the Town Common where various tributes will be given.

Veterans who would like to participate should meet at the Cameron Senior Center at 8 AM on Sunday. All are encouraged to commemorate our US servicemen and servicewomen who have died in defense of our country on this holiday weekend. Join us if you can.

All veterans and Memorial Day event participants are invited for a luncheon at the Frederick S. Healy American Legion Post #159 immediately following the service on the Town Common.

If you'd like to participate, contact Terry at (978) 392-1170

US flags to be placed on veterans graves in May

American Legion Post #159 members will be putting the US flags up in the weeks prior to Memorial Day.

We will do our best to make sure that every veteran's grave is properly marked. Sometimes a flag will be misplaced or unintentional removed, please let the Veterans Service Officer know if a flag is missing, we will try and put one in place prior to Memorial Day.

The flat bronze markers are provided by the VA at no cost, more information on obtaining them can be found at www.cem.va.gov/hm_hm.asp or by calling/emailing the Veterans Services department at (978) 392-1170 or veterans@westfordma.gov



J.V. Fletcher Library



Upcoming Programs

Creature Teachers with Richard Roth: Thursday, April 21 at 2:00 p.m. Encounter a variety of fascinating creatures up close and in the library. Tickets (\$2.00).on sale in Youth Services (Monday, April 4). For ages 5 and up.

Vegetable Gardens with Betty Sanders: Thursday, April 21 at 7 p.m. In conjunction with Westford Community Gardens, the Library is pleased to present Master Gardener, Betty Sanders. Ms. Sanders will teach you the secrets to planning a great vegetable garden that will provide vegetables all summer with plenty left over for storing or sharing. Free! Drop in. Open to all ages!

Snap Circuits for Grades 2-5: Friday, April 22, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Join our Snap Circuits club and build fans that whirl, lights that flash, and button activated sirens, all with safe, snap-together parts and an easy-to-follow project manual. Call the Youth Services Department to register (978-399-2302).

Lego® Club: Saturday, April 23, 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Come create something fun with Library Legos®. All creations will be displayed in the library until the next time we meet. For ages five and up.

Library Monday Mystery Book Club: Monday, April 25 at 10:30 a.m. in the Mary Atwood Hall. Wake up your week with stimulating book discussions. This month's selection is "The Likeness" by Tana French. Copies are available to be picked up at the Main Desk. This is a drop-in program where newcomers are always welcome!

NEW!- Weekly English Conversation Circle: starting on Tuesday, May 3 at 10:30 a.m. Practice your English conversation skills and meet new friends in a relaxed and friendly environment. Starting on Tuesday, May 3, this program will meet every Tuesday morning from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the Mary Atwood room. The group will be led by Carol Morse. Registration is not required for this program. If you have any questions, please call Kristina Leedberg at 978-399-2309.

Library Adult Book Discussion Group: Are you looking for a fun and lively book discussion group? Our Adult Book Discussion group meets the second Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Mary Atwood Room. We alternate between fiction and non-fiction titles. Copies of the current month's selection are available at the Main Desk. Check out our 2016 Reading List.

Research, learn and discover.

WWW.WESTFORDLIBRARY.ORG

Health Department

LEARN ABOUT EMERGING DISEASES: ZIKA, LYME AND MORE

Back by popular demand, please join us as we welcome the MA Department of Public Health (MDPH) Medical Director, Dr. Al DeMaria. Dr. DeMaria will provide an update on emerging and newly recognized growing infectious disease threats, such as Zika virus, Lyme and new tickborne diseases, mumps and measles. Learn the latest information on these diseases, protection measures and latest information from CDC, WHO and MDPH. **Registration not required but recommended by May 13 by calling 978-692-5509.**

Date: May 19
Time: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Location: Stony Brook Auditorium



Health Department Offers Two Substance Abuse Educational Programs

WESTFORD TOWN MEETING ON ADDICTIONS

Please join us for an informative evening and hear from a specialist in the field on what causes addictions, how prevalent the problem is and what you can do to help prevent addictive behaviors. Treatment options will also be discussed. Learn about the ever growing opioid epidemic and what we are experiencing here in Westford. Presenter Dr. Brian O'Connor, Board Certified MD addiction specialist at Middlesex Recovery. **Reservations recommended. Call 978-692-5509 by April 28th to register.**

Date: May 5
Time: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Location: Blanchard School Auditorium



TAYLOR'S MESSAGE

Please join us for a mom's heartbreaking story of the effects of alcohol abuse. After a night of binge drinking and poor choices at a series of underage drinking parties, Kathi's 17-year-old daughter Taylor found herself alone in the woods, and drowned in only two feet of water. They found her 3 days later. Kathi has become a alcohol awareness speaker and made this her mission in life to spread Taylor's Message. Kathi's presentation is heart wrenching but ends with an inspirational message of hope, love and a new found power for students to deal with peer pressure and tough choices they face every day. Her honesty, openness, and heartfelt message is packed with powerful information and it is a presentation that will not be soon forgotten. **Reservations recommended. Call 978-692-5509 by April 28th to register.**

Date: May 12
Time: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Location: Stony Brook Auditorium



Health Department (continued)

GRANDPARENTS - LET'S KEEP OUR BABIES SAFE!

Whooping Cough (Pertussis) is a growing public health concern, and is a highly contagious bacterial disease, that could potentially be fatal to infants. Up to 80% of babies who get Pertussis get the disease from the people they are the closest to; their parents and grandparents. Please join the Westford Health Department at an educational session to learn about the importance of the Tdap vaccine. Immediately following the program eligible participants will have the opportunity to be vaccinated for free. This program is for grandparents who have not been vaccinated before with the Tdap vaccine.

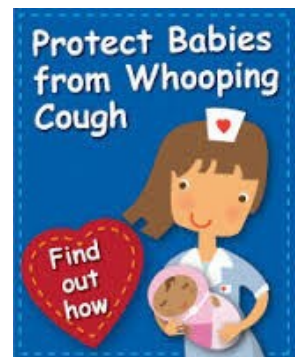
Registration is required. Call 978-692-5509 by April 28 to register.

Date: May 12

Time 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Tdap vaccination will be offered immediately following the presentation.

Location: Town Hall, 2nd floor conference room



HOW TO CREATE A GREEN AND HEALTHY HOME

The Westford Health Department is proud to present, an informational seminar on green and healthy homes. A green and healthy home improves air quality and reduces stress and helps create a home free of health and safety hazards. We will also cover information on how to address lead and asbestos in your home.

Please call 978-692-5509 by May 18th to register.

Date: May 23

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Town Hall Meeting room, 55 Main St.



GARDEN PART OF THE EMPLOYEE WELLNESS PROGRAM!

As part of our Employee Wellness program the Health Department has arranged for a raised bed garden plot for town employees this spring. The gardens will be installed and maintained by Fresh Start Food Gardens of Westford and the produce will be free for town employees to share. A lecture on healthy eating will also be held!!



Health Department (continued)**PARENT SUPPORT GROUP**

This support group is a free drop in group, available to any parent who is concerned that their child might be struggling with a mental health issue. This can be something such as ADD, or some sadness, lots of worries or perhaps something more defined. This is a pro bono group offered for parents to come together and share ideas, offer support to each other and realize that they are not alone in our concern for our children. Facilitators are: Dianne Walsh, LICSW (Cognitive- Behavioral Therapist) and Sue Hanly, RN (school nurse at Stony Brook School). All groups include discussion and sharing by any member who is interested in getting feedback from the group. You do not need to be a Westford resident to attend .

To be included on the group email – feel free to contact: Dianne Walsh, LICSW – walshnr@comcast.net or 508-566-3189 Sue Hanly, RN – smhanly@earthlink.net or 978-501-0837

LAST TWO PROGRAMS OF THE YEAR

May 10 - Parenting a challenging child and a discussion about Positive Parenting

June 14 - Resources/programs as we transition to summer

Dates: 5/10, 6/14

Location: Millennium School (located behind Abbot) - Large All Purpose Room

Time: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

For questions, please 978-692-5509



SPONSORED BY THE WESTFORD HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Health Department (continued)

CLEAN-UP OF COMPACT FLUORESCENT BULBS

Compact Fluorescent Bulbs (CFLs) are a popular choice for your lighting needs due to their energy efficiency and long life. They do however present a small potential health risk if they are accidentally broken due to the presence of Mercury. The EPA has put together a set of recommended clean up guidelines for the accidental breakage of a bulb. For more information you can go to:

www.epa.gov/cfl/cleaning-broken-cfl



Before Cleanup

- Have people and pets leave the room.
- Air out the room for 5-10 minutes by opening a window or door to the outdoor environment.
- Shut off the central forced air heating/air-conditioning system, if you have one.
- Collect materials needed to clean up broken bulb:
 - stiff paper or cardboard;
 - sticky tape;
 - damp paper towels or disposable wet wipes (for hard surfaces); and
 - a glass jar with a metal lid or a sealable plastic bag.



During Cleanup

- **DO NOT VACUUM.** Vacuuming is not recommended unless broken glass remains after all other cleanup steps have been taken. Vacuuming could spread mercury-containing powder or mercury vapor.
- Be thorough in collecting broken glass and visible powder. Scoop up glass fragments and powder using stiff paper or cardboard. Use sticky tape, such as duct tape, to pick up any remaining small glass fragments and powder. Place the used tape in the glass jar or plastic bag. See the detailed cleanup instructions for more information, and for differences in cleaning up hard surfaces versus carpeting or rugs.
- Place cleanup materials in a sealable container.

After Cleanup

- Promptly place all bulb debris and cleanup materials, including vacuum cleaner bags, outdoors in a trash container or protected area until materials can be disposed of. Avoid leaving any bulb fragments or cleanup materials indoors.
- Next, check with your local government about disposal requirements in your area, because some localities require fluorescent bulbs (broken or unbroken) be taken to a local recycling center. If there is no such requirement in your area, you can dispose of the materials with your household trash.
- If practical, continue to air out the room where the bulb was broken and leave the heating/air conditioning system shut off for several hours.

Council On Aging

"NEW" HOME COOKED LUNCH WITH DAVE LOISELLE (GUARANTEED SOME GOOD LAUGHS)

\$3 lunch each Wed. and Fri. (includes beverage and dessert)

Wednesday, April. 20th - Lasagna, oven roasted veggies, garlic bread

Friday, April 22nd - Healthy salad w/sides and pita bread

Wednesday, April. 27th - Turkey roll w/stuffing and mashed potatoes

Friday, April 29th - Hot dogs with baked beans

Please call 978-692-5523 48 hours in advance.

DIABETIC SHOE CLINIC

Tuesday, April. 26th at 1:30

Amy Baxton is coming back to help fit you with the best shoes for your feet.

Please stop by the Cameron and pick-up paperwork prior to April 25th and complete to assist in identifying the right fit and shoe(s) for your needs.

ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM

Wednesday, May 11th departs at 9AM

Join us as we visit this evocative 15th century Venetian Palace which is filled with an eclectic art collection that reflects Isabella Stewart Gardner herself.

Lunch will be at the Venezia Restaurant in Boston. Entree' choice is Baked Haddock, Steak Tips or Chicken Parmesan. Cost-\$82p/p inc. all gratuities-
RSVP to 978-692-5523- Fox Tour trip



A MUST NOT MISS EVENT! GAY NINETIES CELEBRATION

Sponsored by Friends of the Cameron Seniors, Emerson Hospital, Westford Rotary Club

Tuesday, May 24th from 10:30-2:30 at the Franco American Club

This event will honor Westford's residents age 90 and older with a wonderful catered lunch by Shirley Caterers, musical entertainment, special gifts and many Westford Friends and guests. Honoree's and their two guests will attend at no cost.

If you were born in 1926 or earlier, please indicate your birth date when you RSVP.

Other attendees are welcome and the cost is as follows:

Friends Members- \$7 and Non-Friends Members- \$10.

Transportation is provided please call our van line at 978-399-2322.

We are also glad to have *Farmhouse Photography*

capturing our honorees at this event and will be available to photograph others that afternoon.

Advanced registration is needed please call 978-692-5523 by May 13th. This will be a memorable time so please come.



Westford Senior Center

**To view the complete Council On Aging
Newsletter please visit our
website: www.westfordma.gov/coa**

Recycling Commission

ELECTRONICS & MUCH MORE Collection 8 am – 2 pm Saturday, May 7, 2016, Westford Highway Garage, 28 North Street

Westford utilizes the services of Northeast Materials Handling of Haverhill, Massachusetts. This is a fee-based collection; CASH OR CHECK ONLY. OPEN TO ALL. The Town of Westford receives no proceeds from this event. Please see our website www.westfordma.gov/recycling or direct event questions to Susan Thomas at 978-692-1027.

The following are accepted FREE OF CHARGE:

No plastic toys.

- Appliances: Small, anything that plugs into an electrical socket: (irons, hair dryers, toasters, electric toothbrushes, hand mixers, blenders – no glass, etc.)
- Refrigerators, washers, dryers, Air Conditioners / Dehumidifiers, Microwave Ovens, etc.
- Cell Phones and Telephones (Home & Office)
- Computers and towers (CPUs), Laptops
- Smoke/Carbon Monoxide detectors
- Home Electronics & Related Appliances (DVD, DVR, Stereos, etc.)
- Printers, Copiers and fax machines
- Network equipment, Modems, Servers, Switches and Routers
- Flat Screen Computer Monitors - if recycled **WITH** a computer
- Snow Blowers, Lawn Mowers
- Bicycles
- Grills
- Light Fixtures
- Radios and Scanners
- Wire, Filing cabinets, Metal desks
- Chargers, Batteries (NICAD, Lithium and Rechargeable **ONLY**)
- Ink and Toner Cartridges
- Fire extinguishers (empty)
- Game Consoles
- Propane tanks (empty)
- Printed circuit boards
- Battery operated tools and Power tools

Items accepted with fees:

- Children's car seats - \$15
- All TVs (regardless of size) - \$25
- CRT Computer Monitors - \$15
- Speakers - \$10.00 (House Speakers with large wood or plastic housing)

To see what an electronics [collection](#) event looks like, please watch our WestfordCAT Video:



**WESTFORD THANKS YOU
FOR RECYCLING, REDUCING,
REUSING, AND REPURPOSING.**

www.westfordma.gov/recycling



Conservation

Open Space & Recreation Plan Survey

The Town of Westford is conducting a public survey as it prepares to update its Open Space and Recreation Plan. Having a current approved Plan will make the Town eligible for State grants for conservation and recreation. Public input is essential in order for the Plan to represent the interests of the community.

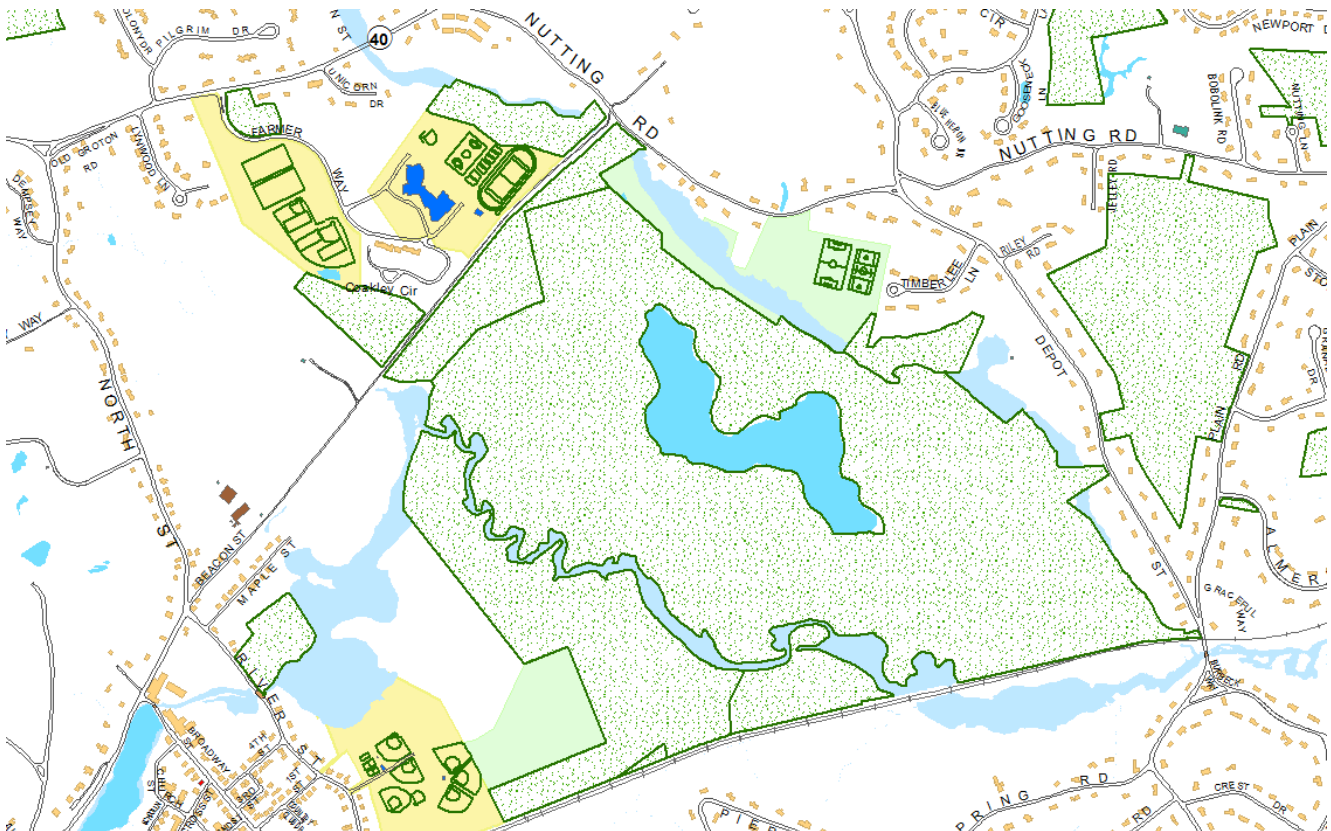


Survey respondents may elect to be entered into a drawing for prizes from area businesses for several lucky winners. All responses will remain anonymous. **Please note that this is a different and separate survey from the one that you may have previously completed for the Town's Recreation Master Plan.**

Please take the online survey, scan the QR code or go to:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/westfordosrp>.

For hard copies, call 978-692-5524 or email devans@westfordma.gov



Engineering

Civil Engineering Student Interns Help

Assistant Town Engineer, Jeremy Downs, recently staked out the Community Garden plots for the Agricultural Commission with the assistance of volunteer interns, Rupali Shenoy and Steve Britko. Rupali is a senior at Westford Academy participating the Capstone program where high school seniors intern in the work place to gain experience and insight into a perspective career. Rupali is planning to study Civil Engineering in September at either Rutgers or Syracuse. Steve Britko is a senior Civil Engineering student at UMass Lowell and plans to graduate in June.



Town Staff Address Lawmakers

Assistant Town Manager John Mangiaratti and Town Engineer Paul Starratt were recently invited to address lawmakers at the Massachusetts Water Pollution Control Association's annual Legislative Event in Boston. John explained to the Representatives and Senators in attendance how the latest Municipal Stormwater



Permit issued by the EPA was going to financially impact towns like Westford. Paul discussed how Westford was preparing a Stormwater Management Master Plan to better understand the details of the town's drainage system and to help guide town decision makers on how to best manage this important infrastructure.